

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please delete claims 1–53 without prejudice to the underlying subject matter.

Please add the following new claims.

1–53 (canceled).

54. (New) A method for managing a prepay wireless call, comprising:

at a roaming platform:

transferring a wireless call, received from a cellular switch, to a home prepay call management platform;

at the home prepay call management platform:

receiving the wireless call from the roaming platform;

determining a prepay account balance associated with the wireless call;

computing a maximum allowable call duration based on the prepay account balance;

sending the maximum allowable call duration to the roaming platform;

releasing the wireless call back to the roaming platform;

at a roaming prepay call management platform co-located with the roaming platform:

starting a call duration timer; and

if the call duration timer reaches the maximum allowable call duration, disconnecting the call.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the roaming platform:

determining whether the wireless call is authorized; and

if the wireless call is not authorized, processing the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said determining whether the wireless call is authorized includes:

determining whether a customer group office code of a mobile identification number associated with the wireless call is an authorized prepay area code exchange of a home carrier; and

determining whether the cellular switch allows prepay roaming with the home carrier.

57. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the roaming platform:

sending, to the home prepay call management platform, a wireless call origination area, a wireless call service type, and a wireless call roaming rate.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the wireless call roaming rate includes at least one of a local rate and a long distance rate.

59. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the home prepay call management platform:

determining whether the wireless call is allowed to roam; and

if the wireless call is not allowed to roam, processing the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

60. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the home prepay call management platform:

computing a minimum balance;

comparing the prepay account balance to the minimum balance;

if the prepay account balance is less than the minimum balance, processing the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

61. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the home prepay call management platform:

sending wireless call restrictions to the roaming platform.

62. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said determining a prepay account balance includes:

sending, to a customer database server, a request to lookup the prepay account balance;
and

receiving, from the customer database server, the prepay account balance.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

computing an amount of funds expended by the wireless call; and

sending, to the customer database server, the amount of funds expended from the prepay account balance.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising:

at the customer database server:

posting the amount of funds expended from the prepay account balance.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, further comprising:

at the customer database server:

receiving a prepayment amount associated with a prepay account; and

posting the prepayment amount to the prepay account.

66. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said computing a maximum allowable call duration includes:

determining a rate per minute; and

computing the maximum allowable call duration, in minutes, based on the prepay account balance and the rate per minute.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said rate per minute is based on at least one of a wireless call roaming rate, an access rate, and an air time rate.

68. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

if the maximum allowable call duration is not greater than zero, disconnecting the call.

69. (New) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

at the roaming prepay call management platform:

monitoring the call for an indication of call completion; and

if call completion is indicated, disconnecting the call.

70. (New) A system for managing a prepay wireless call, comprising:

a roaming platform, coupled to a cellular switch, to:

transfer a wireless call received from a cellular switch;

a home prepay call management platform, coupled to the roaming platform, to:

receive the wireless call from the roaming platform;

determine a prepay account balance associated with the wireless call;

compute a maximum allowable call duration based on the prepay account balance;

send the maximum allowable call duration to the roaming platform;

release the wireless call back to the roaming platform;

a roaming prepay call management platform, coupled to the roaming platform, to:

start a call duration timer; and

if the call duration timer reaches the maximum allowable call duration, disconnect the call.

71. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the roaming platform is further adapted to:

determine whether the wireless call is authorized; and

if the wireless call is not authorized, process the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein to determine whether the wireless call is authorized includes to:

determine whether a customer group office code of a mobile identification number associated with the wireless call is an authorized prepay area code exchange of a home carrier; and

determine whether the cellular switch allows prepay roaming with the home carrier.

73. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the roaming platform is further adapted to:

send, to the home prepay call management platform, a wireless call origination area, a wireless call service type, and a wireless call roaming rate.

74. (New) The system of claim 73, wherein the wireless call roaming rate includes at least one of a local rate and a long distance rate.

75. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the home prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

determine whether the wireless call is allowed to roam; and

if the wireless call is not allowed to roam, process the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

76. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the home prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

compute a minimum balance;

compare the prepay account balance to the minimum balance;

if the prepay account balance is less than the minimum balance, process the call as at least one of a credit card call and a manual roaming call.

77. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the home prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

send wireless call restrictions to the roaming platform.

78. (New) The system of claim 70, further comprising:

a customer database server, coupled to the home prepay call management platform, to store prepay account information.

79. (New) The system of claim 78, wherein to determine a prepay account balance includes to:

send, to the customer database server, a request to lookup the prepay account balance; and

receive, from the customer database server, the prepay account balance.

80. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein the home prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

compute an amount of funds expended by the wireless call; and

send, to the customer database server, the amount of funds expended from the prepay account balance.

81. (New) The system of claim 80, wherein the customer database server is further adapted to:

posting the amount of funds expended from the prepay account balance.

82. (New) The system of claim 81, wherein the customer database server is further adapted to:

receive a prepayment amount associated with a prepay account; and

post the prepayment amount to the prepay account.

83. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein to compute a maximum allowable call duration includes to:

determine a rate per minute; and

compute the maximum allowable call duration, in minutes, based on the prepay account balance and the rate per minute.

84. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein said rate per minute is based on at least one of a wireless call roaming rate, an access rate, and an air time rate.

85. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the home prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

disconnect the call if the maximum allowable call duration is not greater than zero.

86. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the roaming prepay call management platform is further adapted to:

monitor the call for an indication of call completion; and

if call completion is indicated, disconnect the call.